

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

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R 081117Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASS MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3202

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION USEC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 6954

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP, EUR

SUBJ: EUROPEAN CRITICISM OF SPANISH EXECUTIONS

1. DURING A CONVERSATION OCTOBER 7 WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CTNTINA ON ANOTHER MATTER, HE SPOKE AT CONSIDERABLE LENGTH ON THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT'S IRRITATION OVER THE EUROPEAN REACTION TO THE SPANISH EXECTUIONS. HE SPOKE WITH PARTICULAR BITTERNESS ABOUT CERTAIN REACTIONS IN GERMANY, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE GERMAN ATTITUDE. HE WAS INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT IT COME FROM LEFT-WING MEMBERS OF THE SPD. IN ESSENCE, CORTINA WAS OF THE OPINION THAT MUCH OF THE EUROPEAN REACTION WAS ENCOURAGED BY COMMUNIST ELEMENTS IN THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, SINCE

IT SHOULD BE CLEAR THAT THE COMMUNIST AIM IS NOT JUST

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THE TAKEOVER OF PORTUGAL, BUT THAT OF THE ENTIRE IBERIAN

PENINSULA. THE ONLY REAL POINT OF INTEREST IN THIS CONVERSATION WITH CORTINA WAS HIS OWN ALLUSION TO THE POSSIBILITY OF "JUDICIAL ERRORS" ON THE PART OF THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT IN THE PROCEDURE USED IN TRYING THE TERRORISTS WHO KILLED THE POLICEMEN. IT WAS A PASSING ALLUSION, BUT ONE WHICH GAVE ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT.

2. I TOLD CORTINA THAT THE QUESTION OF "DUE PROCESS" WAS A PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT ONE IN AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION. I SAID THAT, WITHOUT WISHING TO INVOLVE MYSELF IN SPANISH INTERNAL MATTERS, I DID WANT TO POINT OUT THAT MOST OF THE COMMENTARY IN THE UNITED STATES CONCERNING THE EXECUTIONS FOCUSED ON THE LACK OF DUE PROCESS. SINCE HE, HIMSELF, HAD ALLUDED TO THIS QUESTION, I BELIEVED THAT HE SHOULD BE AWARE OF AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION CRITICAL OF THE LACK OF DUE PROCESS.

3. CORTINA TOOK THIS COMMENT IN GOOD PART AND ADMITTED THAT THE USE OF SUMMARY COURT MARTIALS FOR CRIMES AGAINST THE MILITARY, THE CIVIL GUARD AND THE ARMED POLICE WAS NOT UNDERSTOOD IN OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES. HE ENDED THIS PART OF THE CONVERSATION BY SAYING, "LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS", AND THIS LEFT ME WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT AT LEAST HE, AND POSSIBLY OTHER MINISTERS, RECOGNIZED SPANISH VULNERABILITY WITH RESPECT TO THE LACK OF DUE PROCESS.
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